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**BUENOS AIRES-**

# TELEGRAM

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FROM

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11652:  
TAGS:  
SUBJECT:

NA  
SHUM, AR  
Visit of Henry Kaplan and Three Other Scientists

**ACTION:**  
**INFO:**

SECSTATE WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY LONDON? AMEMBASSY PARIS, AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 7764

AMB  
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REF: ~~BUENOS AIRES~~ STATE 231915

SUMMARY. A group of four scientist seeking the release of jailed physicians and scientists--or news of disappeared persons in these professions--visited Buenos Aires the week of September 25-29 but were not successful in presenting their case before Argentine authorities. Henry S. Kaplan was the U.S. citizen member.

END SUMMARY

1. The Embassy was in close touch with Stanford University Radiology Professor and distinguished cancer researcher Henry S. Kaplan during his September 25-29 stay in Buenos Aires. Kaplan came here as member of a delegation headed by French Professor Leon Schwarzenberg and which included Dutch Cancer Specialist Dirk van Beckum and British Psychiatrist G.A. Lowbeer. Collettee Auger, a

**DRAFTED BY:**

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DRAFTING DATE

9/29/78

TEL. EXT.

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CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

DCM: MChap 11 ✓

**CLEARANCES:**

**SECRET**

**CLASSIFICATION**

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)  
(Formerly FS-413(H))  
January 1975  
Dept. of State

81F93  
50/52

50152-101

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French Attorney, also accompanied the group.

2. The group encountered nothing but frustration in its efforts to communicate to Minister of Interior Harguindeguy and other high Argentine officials its concern for between one and two hundred Argentine physicians or scientists reported to the group as either imprisoned or disappeared. Centerpiece of the group's presentation was to be the suggestion that Argentine officials act magnanimously on the eve of the 12th International Cancer Congress (the Congress opens here on October 5) by releasing the jailed scientists and doing all possible to provide information on those disappeared. The group's effectiveness was dissipated however almost completely by Dr. Schwarzenberg's prominence in organizing a "counter Congress" which is to take place in opposition to the Buenos Aires event. Organizers of the "counter Congress" have urged their colleagues in Cancer Research to shun the meeting in Argentina. In fact to describe Argentine officialdom and the Argentine cancer establishment as "hopping mad" would be an euphemism. At a press conference on the day of the group's arrival Congress President Canonico formerly pronounced Schwarzenberg "non grata".

3. Upshot of all this was an official cold shoulder.

The French Embassy, which had taken undertaken to

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obtain appointments for the group with Harguindeguy and Minister of Social Welfare Bardi received curt last minute negative replies.

during 9/26 call on Ambassador,  
4. In response to Dr. Kaplan's request, the Embassy informed the Ministry of Interior of the presence of a distinguished U.S. visitor who requested an appointment with the Interior Minister to present a well considered request. Harguindeguy said no. We separately arranged a private meeting between Kaplan and Juan Carlos Arlia, Chairman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Working Group on Human Rights. Arlia paved the way for Kaplan to call at 4 PM September 29 on Acting Foreign Minister Gualter Allara, but Kaplan declined this meeting.

5. Dr. Kaplan left Buenos Aires evening September 29. Other group members were to depart shortly thereafter. The group plans to make public a letter its members wrote to Argentine authorities in which they ~~would~~ will complain about the government's lack of receptivity to their petition.

6. Addendum. Dr. Kaplan telephoned Friday afternoon just before leaving for the airport to say that his group that morning had filed a formal habeas corpus petition for the missing or imprisoned scientists on the list the group had brought with it.

CASTRO  
*me*

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